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ways fresh, vivid and trustworthy. The point of view is always sound and stable, the tone always indulgent and urbane. It is like Florence herself speaking with such wisdom and serenity as only old people and old countries know, never lax or cheap, never fretful or vituperative. The reader feels to an extraordinary degree, from the thirteenth century to the nineteenth, the real life of real folk in the world of homely detail and domestic duty. The style assumes in places an odd and not displeasing naïveté—as is not infrequent in translated work—but it is easy always and grows only the more intimate. The pictures cover seven centuries; they are unusual, all; new because they are so old. The most novel of the essays is that on “Good Examples and Good Manners” of the fourteenth century; the most sustained in importance is the biography of Tullia of Arragon; but the most charming is the last of all, which records the changing of the old order and the passing of the last, kindly, ineffectual Grand-Dukes of Tuscany.

These Jesuit letters* and other memorials of devoted men under persecution, though published half as a pious task, no doubt, and half for special students, make pleasant reading for amateurs if taken in morsels like cheese. The long-dead writers are both less rancorous and less exalted than might have been expected. Either they were cautious correspondents or they have been rigidly edited. But they are gallant gentlemen for the most part, whether rehearsing such rather puerile miracles as that of the young lady who said her prayers in the garden during a shower and was not wet or sketching as good a prison interior as any in the contemporary novels; and always they are incredibly quaint and human. It is good to remember that men have lived so sober, staunch and self-effacing.

Any full consideration of the admirable historical work Mr. Trevelyan is doing on Garibaldi† must be reserved for the end of the series of vivid and absorbing volumes, or, at any rate, for the end of the year 1860 and the exploits of the splendid Thou-

* “Memoirs of Scottish Catholics during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries.” By William Forbes Leith, S. J. 2 vols. London and New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1909.

† “Garibaldi and the Thousand.” By George Macaulay Trevelyan. London and New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1909.

sand. Meantime every reader must pause to praise the ample and living and literary qualities of the work as scholarly as if it dealt with classic matter, but tinged and flavored by the testimony of witnesses, correspondents, interlocutors, who yet live, and further vivified by personal acquaintance with the ground both in the north of Italy and in the Mediterranean isles, which was the scene of the action. It is romantic rather than epical, adventurous rather than dramatic; the interest nowhere flags, and the style is a gentleman's and scholar's. So should history be written.

The greatest service of this book* will be to hard-pressed teachers. It presents in a handy form a great deal of information usually accessible only in libraries, and it reproduces a large number of miscellaneous pictures apt to pique the young mind. It has the life and movement of matter actually talked; selected and arranged to catch the eye and ear. It is not always fair to the Elizabethan people, however: that they were neither so much more cruel than we or so much more credulous, as the writer declares, his own evidence very candidly attests. To carry, for instance, a certain herb in the mouth as precaution against the plague need not be superstition; it may be antisepsis. And there is a rash statement (for another instance) on page 7 about the consequences of the defeat of the Armada. If Englishmen had waited till after 1588 to travel abroad, where should we all be now?

ESSAY.

Gleanings from the "Gentlemen's Magazine," under the editorship of Mr. A. H. Bullen, is bound to yield good reading, and it is high praise to say of the seventeen essays in this volume the eleven now for the first time printed excel in poetic charm and leisurely wisdom the six which originally appeared in that magazine. Leisurely wisdom, indeed, is the marked characteristic of these lovely essays. There is no startling brilliancy or wit, but the soft light of a quiet, kindly wit plays over all the essays and leaves us the better, the gentler, the kindlier, for the companionship of so wise a leader. The very titles of the essays

* "The Elizabethan People." By Henry Thew Stephenson. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1910.